A RELATION OF TWO FREE CONFERENCES BETWEEN FATHER L'CHESE, AND FOUR CONSIDERABLE...

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RELATION

OF TWO

Free Conferences

BETWEEN

FATHER L'CHESE,

AND

Four Considerable JESUITS,

Touching the Present State of the Affair of the

Romanists in England,

In Order to the Carrying on their *Great Design.*

Sent in a Letter *from* PARIS, *to a Considerable Popish Lord in* ENGLAND.

Printed in the Year, 1680.

THE PREFACE.

My Lord,

Since I owe to Your Lordships recommendation, all the Advantages which I enjoy from the Countenance and Favour of Father Le Chese, *I reckon my self oblig'd to acquaint You with whatsoever I know concerns You, or is worth Your notice.*

The following Conference was held the second Instant, and is of vast Importance to the Interest of that Religion which You Profess, and that Cause wherein You have so far, and so Honourably Embarqued Your self. I had the

good Fortune to be near, and over-hear the whole Conſult; and having as well as I could from my Memory, put the effect of what was ſaid, in Writing, I take this Opportunity to give you early Intelligence thereof, that You may know how to regulate Your Affairs, and prepare for thoſe Great Things which are to follow: Whereby I have given You an Inſtance, how ſtrongly my Inclinations lead me to render You all the Service that I can imagine may be acceptable to You, to whom I have Devoted the Remainder of my Life. I am,

Paris Feb. 4. 1679.

My Lord,

Your Lordſhips

Moſt Obliged,

and Faithful

Servant.

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A Relation of Two Conferences, &c.

AS soon as the four *Fathers* had taken their places, *Father Le Chese* began to this effect. There are no persons more concern'd in the present Prosecution of the distressed Catholicks in *England*, than you are, and I my self am become zealous for that Nation to the highest degree, and am unwilling to lose the Glory of being one of the chiefest Instruments of reducing it to the Obedience of the Church. I have therefore desired this Meeting, in order to our resolving upon some Methods whereby we may regain the Ground which we have lost by *Oats* his treacherous Discovery, and by the severe Enquiry which two successive *Parliaments* have made into our Designs. It doth indeed deserve the Wisdom and the Courage of the Society to attempt to change the Religion, and the Government of a Kingdom, when the whole Nation knows our Purpose, and all their Eyes are fixed upon every one of our Motions. We must disguise our selves very well, if we hope to escape so nice a Scrutiny. I speak not this, *Fathers*, as if I doubted whether we ought to proceed any further, I hope such a shameful Cowardise shall never stain the Followers of St. *Ignatius*; but in what Methods we are to walk? Whether we are obstinately to pursue our old Project in spight of the malitious Vigilance of the *Hereticks*? Or whether we are to dress our selves in new Shapes, and to tread in new ways? That is to be the Subject of our present Debate. Sir *John Warner* rose first and said.

Sir John Warner.

I do assure your *Reverence*, that my thoughts are continually fixed upon this Business, so that what I shall say, is the Result of a very long Consideration. 'Tis known how dexterously we had laid our Design, how certainly the guilt of the *King's* Death,

mists, and refused the Bait, however specious it seem'd, when they saw the Hook that lay under it. This thing did highly exasperate the *K.* against them. And soon after, the *E.* of *D.* coming into the Ministry, and finding that his mortal Enemies the *D* of *B.* and *E.* of *S.* had attained to a good Opinion amongst that sort of men, he found it necessary to strengthen himself with the other party. Then was the late *K's Statue* set up, and a motion made in the House of Commons, to have his Body honourably interred, after it had lain in quiet so many years under Ground. The old *Cavaliers* were cajol'd, even the *D.* of *L.* began to make Speeches for Episcopacy, and the whole Band of Pensioners in the House of Commons were perpetually crying out, *Forty* and *Forty one.* By this your *Reverence* may very well perceive, that we went upon good Grounds, when we pretended to fix a Plot upon a party so detested by the Bishops, and the old Cavaliers, so feared by the Ministers, so suspected by the King, and so declar'd against by the House of Commons. And the business began luckily, *Claypole* (a man of no Design, but one who had married *Cromwel's* Daughter) was apprehended and committed to the Tower for Treason, upon an Accusation of a Design against the Kings Person, to be executed at the same time, when our Assassins were prepared to strike. 'Tis true, we were detected, and our Ruine was very near, but we may still be successful, if we be not wanting to our selves. I must confess whilst I am in Apprehension of new Discoveries, every day my Heart fail'd me very much; but since the Usage of those that have come in, and the different Method of Examination of things of that nature by Parliament, and by other Courts, have not given sufficient Encouragement to any person of Quality and Parts, to come in and confirm what hath been discovered; I begin to grow assured, and to believe we may yet turn the Plot upon the *Presbyterians* Consider, *Sir*, that the murder of the *Scotish Bishop*, and the *Rebellion* in *Scotland*, have put many of the dignified Clergy in *England*, in a manner, beside themselves. They begin in good earnest to

to think the late times are coming on again, although we or our Friend the *D.* of *L.* are only able to give a good Account of that business. The whole story of the Civil War, and of the late Ruine of their Church is grown again the business of the Press and Pulpit. A Gentleman of good quality who came lately to *Paris*, assures me, That if a stranger were to hear the Sermons, and Discourses of the Generality of the Dignified Clergy, he would indeed guess that there had been a discovered of late, a horrid Conspiracy against the K. and Goverement, but he would never Guess, that the Catholicks had been accused of it. Consider, if you please the numerous party we have there ready to receive every Impression to the disadvantage of the *Presbyterians*. What excellent use have we made of the Liberty of the Press already, having gotteo the most furious Books, written against them in the late Times (when the Sword was drawn) Reprinted, together with all the Treasonable Pamphlets those Rebellious Times produced. Nay we have Assistance beyond our hopes, and Sir *W. D. Le. Na.* and *Fr.* are as busie in scribling against the Dissenters, as if the late War were fighting over again. Besides it happens very luckily that some of the most Active and Considerable Persons, who are busie against us, both in and out of Parliament, were of the Peoples side in the late Times, of which 'tis natural for us to make this Use; *That it is their old Republican Principle only which makes them so averse to his* R.H. And this Bait is so swallowed with wonderful greediness by the credulous Clergy, who are never to be reconciled to any party that were once for lessening the *Hierarchy*. Every thing is prepar'd for this Design. And a numerous party are longing for some Evidence of a guilt, which is found only in their Desires. Heaven does not only inspire us with this Project; but assists and instructs in it. Let us therefore go on with our usual diligence and constancy. Every day devise new Tales to encrease the Jealousie against the *Presbyterians*. Let us whisper abroad the greatness of their Numbers, the Incorrigibleness of their Principles. Let us (when things

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are got to a little more maturity) ſtrengthen that Evidence which we have already prepared againſt them. Let us provoke the moſt hot-headed amongſt them to ſome Extravagancies and Indiſcretions, (which may eaſily be done) and we need not fear but the Church-men will improve every ſlight offence, and cannot forbear ſtriking their old Enemies, though the blow in all probability, by God's bleſſing, may prove mortal to the whole *Proteſtant Peraſite*. He had no ſooner concluded, but *Father Warren* began to this manner.

Warren. I am perfectly of Sir *John Warner's* Opinion, That no greater happineſs could be wiſh'd in this Juncture, than to be able to fix any ſeeming Plot upon the *Engliſh Fanaticks*. It would be like freſh Game ſtarted, and would certainly tempt the hot-headed Hunters to leave their Old Chace of the *Papiſts*, as they call us, and purſue the new Diſcovery. I know very well that it would be a very great weakning of the Common Enemy, and make another Civil War amongſt Proteſtants. I know, however their Learning be deſpiſed by the pretended Church of *England*, that yet that ſeverity which they keep up in their Manners, and ſo conſtantly preſs on their Diſciples, has in an extraordinary manner obſtructed the advancement of the *Catholick Religion* in *England*, by hindering that general debauchery, and corruption of manners, amongſt thoſe Hereticks, which would have let us in upon them ſo eaſily. As may be demonſtrated by our ſucceſs in the *Court*, and other places where none of thoſe intractable whining *Stocks* come. I am not ignorant that any Reconciliation betwixt us and them, is impracticable There have been *Branthals*, and *Lauds*, and *Grotius's*, and *Lloyds*, have fancied it poſſible to reconcile other ſort of Proteſtants to us, but there never was yet a man ſo fond as to hope for any union between the *Catholicks*, and the *Diſciples of Calvin* I am alſo very ſenſible, that no ſort of men have been ſo induſtrious in ruining our late hopeful Contrivances, nor none ſo Jealous of us, and conſequently, ſo careful to watch in what ſhape the deſigns of the Society will next appear. But let me after all, put your *Reve-*

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vented in mind, that it would be for ever fatal to us to set on foot such an attempt at such a time, and fail in it. Now the Thing in it self, is not easily credited. Nothing is so apparently the Interest of the Dissenters, as to keep the Crown on the King's head: a King under whom (at present) they enjoy great ease from the penal Laws, and exercise their way of Worship without fear. Whereas, were he taken away, what could they hope for from his Successor, whose temper is so well known, whose aversion to them, and whose firmness to us, is more manifest than that he is to Succeed? I speak this to shew that no man can suspect the *Presbyterians* of such a Design, who does not at the same time think them all Fools and Madmen. Besides, by my Observation, they are generally the Wealthiest Men in the Kingdom, and so have most to lose in a tumultuous State. They have paid dearly for the last War, and have very lately attained to this ease, which they now enjoy, and therefore no man can think they will willingly hazard it. To deal truly, they seem'd to concur so unanimously to the Restoring of the King, when they were possess'd of a Power which might have obstructed it, that it cannot but have some influence upon his mind, and take off any suspicion, which their former behaviour might have given him. They have lived quietly ever since he came in, and they never lived so much exempt from Persecution, as now they do; and therefore it will be very difficult to cozen any one into a belief that they have a Plot against the King's Life, because it is most plain, it were in effect a Plot against themselves. Let me add to this, That we are not now upon a new unfolded Project. We have more than once attempted the same thing, and have been defeated. Sir *John Warner* mentioned to your *Reverence* the ill success of the design upon *Clappole*, but he forgot to tell you of the latter Detection by *Dangerfield*. This Project was formed and brought to great ripeness, and had it been to be executed by Heads a degree cooler than those of the Countess of *P.* the Lord *C.* and Mrs. *C.* in all likelihood it had not so unluckily miscarried. This alone is sufficient to bring a scandal upon any

thing of this nature to be attempted for the future, and all that have heard of this will be ready to smile at the naming of a *Presbyterian Plot* hereafter. Should a new Forgery of this sort be detected, we should infallibly draw again upon us the fury of the People (which seems somewhat abated towards us at present) and that possibly would not be appeased but by our final Extirpation. 'Tis therefore my humble advice, that *Catholicks* should comply with the necessity of the times, and have a little Patience. Let us not grow so vain upon the expectation of a Successor of our own, as to endanger his Succession, but let us be quiet for a little time, and a little time will work wonderful things for our advantage, especially if we can keep off Parliaments. 'Tis at that mark we must all aim. Nothing can ruine *Catholicks* in *England* but a *Parliament*. 'Tis a *Parliament* only *can make the King* sensible of those Friends of ours that are concealed very near him. 'Tis that only can revive the Prosecution of the Plot, which now in the Interval languishes apace. 'Tis that only can support the Old Witnesses, and encourage New ones to come in. In a word, 'tis a *Parliamentary* Enquiry alone that is sufficient to compleat the Discovery of a matter, wherein so many Great, so many Rich, so many Powerful Persons are concern'd. If we but keep off *Parliaments*, we may reasonably hope from the temper of the *Witnesses*, That they will run into such indiscretions as will lessen their credit among the People. I am sure *O.* and *B.* have lost much in the general Opinion since their baffle in the business of my *Ld.* *h & Sc.* and if they are put out of hopes of seeing a *Parliament* meet, they will either be discouraged, or provoked; and either way, I dare undertake we shall gain Advantages upon them every day. We shall save our Friends in the Tower, whose Heads will certainly be in great danger if there be a Session. We shall save our friends at the Court, who will not be in a much better condition. And we shall preserve the Succession in the Right Line. By a long Interval of *Parliaments*, we may have time to form new Designs, and many unseen Accidents will turn to our Advantage. I will not urge this

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Point farther, for I am sure your *Reverence*, and all the *Fathers* are of the same Opinion with me in this particular. But the difficulty consists in the means how this shall be effected. That which I shall propose is, first, That the *D.* of *T.* be sent for to *London*. The *K.* will never be firm unless he be by him to Inspire him continually with new Courage; and besides, we see his *Northern* Journey has in no sort answered our expectation, nor will his stay there, he of any Use to us, as I could demonstrate. Besides this, His *Most Christian Majesty* may lay his positive Commands on the *D.* of *P.* or his *Embassador*, and on his other Friends in the *English Court*, that they never hearken to any Proposal of a *Parliament*, on any pretence whatsoever, but use all arts and endeavours to keep it off. And if your *Reverence* could prevail with him to throw away a little money on so good an occasion, we are assured by one who has been a *Martyr* for our Cause, *That in the English Court*, Logick *built upon Money, has more powerful Charms than any other sort of Reasonings*. The truth is, if the matter be well considered, it is not so difficult to effect it, since there is hardly a person in Credit with the *K.* who must not fear a Session above all things. The *D*'s Head lyes immediately at stake, and that Favourite is not yet forgot, at *W. H. L.* has provoked *Parliaments* beyond all hopes of Reconciliation. I dare take upon me to say, the *D.* of *P.* dares not stand that Shock. My Lord, Mr. *H. &c.* and Mr. *G.* who look like some body out of *Parliament*, will then appear so little, as may hazard their credit with the *K.* The *D.* of *T.* runs infinite hazard by their Meeting. Nay the *K.* himself is apprehensive that he cannot but lye under some reflections, since that false and ungrateful Favourite, *D.* has directly charged him with all that has been done during his Ministry.

I hope I have shewn my Proposition to be very feasible, as well as very advantagious; And I am very confident it will above all other things do the business of the *Catholicks*.

Sir *Tho. Preston*,

I agree with *Father Warren* (said *Sr. Tho. Preston*) that it's of absolute necessity that we should not suffer *Parliaments* to sit, but I must add, with *Sr. John Warner*, that 'tis no less necessary for us to fix some *Conspiracy* upon the *Presbyterians* immediately. Take the several Counsels of both the *Fathers* together, and we cannot fail of success. Our counterfeit *Plot* will be discovered, if the *Parliament* sit. And the *Parliament* must needs sit in a little time, if we cannot charge a *Plot* upon the *Presbyterians*. (By *Presbyterians* I do not mean those only that are really so, but we must order it as Arch Bishop *Laud* did, who called every one a *Puritan*, who was not for his sort of Government in *Church* and *State*) Notwithstanding all that *Sera in fundo parsimonia*, that new good Husbandry taken up at *Court*, the want of Money will encrease so fast, that it will be impossible to hinder the *K.* from calling the *Parliament* together in a little time, if you do not make him afraid of them, and that can be done by no other means than by perswading him that they are generally *Presbyterians* in the *House* of *Commons*, and that the *Presbyterians* are at this instant contriving against his *Crown*. It was observed to your *Reverence* before, how much the *E* of *D.* thought himself concerned to cry out of the return of *Forty One*, and I do not see but the present *Ministers* do the same, only they have the advantage of New Arguments to use. They tell the *K.* every day, how much the Insolence of that *Party* is increased under colour of Prosecuting the *Plot*. They press him with an unanswerable Argument, as they call it, drawn from the late *Petitions* for the *Sitting* of the *Parliament*, and the *K.* seems to give some Ear to them. Tho' I am told, a *Protestant Lord* said to him lately, *That because some Rebels once Petitioned for unreasonable things, that from thence he ought not to conclude, that whoever asked reasonable things of him, and when they had done, disputed not his Power of denying, were Rebels.* It is easie to perswade one, who desires it should be so, that such a Woman is a *Whore*. Nor is it more difficult to make a Man seem

seem guilty in his Eyes, who has not a mind he should be Innocent. Have not the constant Sermons before the *K.* of late been, of the danger of that Faction, which begins, as they say, to revive so strongly, and does not every Pulpit and every Press abound with the same stories? Nay what is it we can despair of, after we have seen *Mrs. C.* and *Mr. G.* admitted as evidence to prove a *Presbyterian Plot*, upon *Sir R. P.* when the Contrivance of the Forgery had been before directly proved upon those very persons, by the Testimony of *Dangerfield*, confirmed with many Circumstances? 'Tis Cowardise to fear after such Success; and 'tis Folly to have too good an opinion of our Adversaries. Do we not see they help us all they can? Do not a great party amongst the Hereticks labour as heartily to serve our Interest, as if they were of our Religion, and more ready to be gull'd into a belief of some *Presbyterian* Conspiracy, than we are to form one? I regard not the Absurdity nor the Improbability of the Accusation, if it be against the *Dissenters*, there's scarce a *Conformable Clergy man* in *England*, but will believe it. Nay, I have advice from *England*, That some of our Friends there, have taken Advantage of some hasty words, which *Oats* has said of some *Bishops*, who used him unkindly, and of some Familiarity which he has been observed to have with some *Dissenters*, to report him a *Fanatick*. The thing has so taken fire, that the furious Men of the *Church* of *England*, are more zealous in whispering things to his disadvantage, than any of us are. Nor do they stop there; they begin to talk slightly of the rest of the Witnesses. They question the Truth of their Testimony, because of some Indiscretion in their Conduct in other matters. They take advantage of every little slip in their Expressions, and every improbability in what they say, and argue, as if what was improbable could not be true. Nay, after the Truth of their Evidence has been justified by the concurring Approbation of the *K.* two *Parliaments*, and the *Courts* of *Justice*; after we our selves had given it the greatest Confirmation imaginable,

ginable, and made it as clear as Noon-day, by our frequent attempts of *Subornation*, as manifestly proved as the Nature of the Thing is capable of, there are men in *England*, who (as yet) are no *Catholicks*, who Print scurrilous Papers against the Witnesses, and write and spread Libels of them, with the utmost diligence. You see what Invitations we have to attempt what I propose, which if joyn'd with common Discretion, and ordinary Diligence, will without doubt be very successful. If we would set up some in *London*, or near it, to present *Petitions* for putting the Laws in execution against *Dissenters* upon the account of their late insolent (as it must be called) *Petition*; or by burning the Rump again, or some such other publick reviving the Resentment of the Court against the Actions of the late Times, whereby we should revenge their *Petitioning* and their *Burning of Popes*, and prevent them for the future. Or if we would but get these things done either by our Friends at Court, or any how, so they were but done, we might make very good use of them, especially if as preparatory thereunto, some *Reformation* were made upon the *Benches* at *Westminster* and in the *Countrey*, and all *Courts* of *Judicature* were filled with Men of warm Tempers, who have malice enough to the *Dissenters* to execute the Laws in good earnest against them. The Imprisonments and Fines, and the Banishment from Corporations would so pursue both the Preachers and the People, that it would be easie, with good management to provoke them, or at least some of the meanest, who are usually most zealous, to no little excesses. 'Tis but well dissembling that we are of that party, and then inculcating into their minds the rigor of their persecution, the misery of their condition, and the folly to suffer themselves to be used so by a party far less numerous than themselves, and 'tis more than probable, that by this Artifice some of them may be drawn into some Conspiracy, which may be laid in their way. But if we should fail therein, yet discontented they would be, and 'tis natural for every man to think that he who

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is discontented with his present condition, will desire to change it, and then mens minds are prepared to suspect that they will attempt such a change. By this means we shall certainly stop the *Presbyterians* from hunting so furiously after our plot, who will then have enough to do to save themselves, and then I am confident we may be quiet enough in *England*. After a little Pause, *Father Coniers* discourled after this manner. *Father Coniers:*

I hope I have given a sufficient Testimony of my Zeal and Courage by my late personal undertaking, to do which the whole society thought of such absolute necessity to be done, when we had been so often disappointed therein by Lay-hands. Nor doth any fear of my late Danger continue to make Impressions on me. But I have lived long in *England*, and am so well acquainted with the Humor of the People, that I know that all which has been proposed will be much too little to restore the *Catholick Religion*, or secure *Catholicks* in that Kingdom. 'Tis indeed necessary that the Meeting of the Parliament should be deferred for some time, but if it should be put off too long, it would be certainly no less fatal to us then to the Crown. 'Tis necessary to make the *Fanaticks* as odious, and as much suspected as we can, and I see very well how useful it would be to us, if we could revive the persecution of the Laws against them. But I also know well, that though such a prosecution would be very acceptable to a great part of the Clergy, and the old *Cavaliers*, who felt the late war, and who will never think they have sufficiently reveng'd themselves, yet it would be far from being pleasing to the Body of the Nation, who, though they are not *Dissenters*, yet are moderately enclined. The *Latitudinarian* Opinions having of late very much prevailed amongst them, especially if they observe that at the same time, when all the severity is used against Protestants, all the Penal and Sanguinary Laws against us shall be laid asleep, the Prosecution of the Plot shall cease: The Lords in the Tower shall remain Untried. The *D.* shall

return to Court, and the Catholicks more than ever resort thither, and be kindly, look't on there. These are not the ways to appease the rage, and quiet the Apprehensions of the People, on the contrary, it will infallibly cause a general defection, and with submission to your *Reverences* Judgment I confess, that in my opinion an Universal Commotion will be as assuredly distructive to us, as a little Hurry and Tumult would be for our Advantage. All other Stratagems will not be sufficient to deceive them, unless at the same time you seemingly secure them from the *Growth of Popery*, and *of the Succession of a Papist*. The *K.* must Banish the Papists out of *England* if ever he intends to have Money from a Parliament. 'I know very well that no man can be banished *England* but by an Act of Parliament, unless he consents himself, as his *R. H.* did(and thereby has gaind much on the *K.* especially since the *D.* of *M.* refused) and then 'tis rather Departure then a Banishment. But it will give the *Catholicks* the reputation of the best of Subjects (at the Court) when it shall be observed there that they are the only men, who comply with the least Intimation of the *Ks.* pleasure, and (however grievous the Commands may be) have learned to Obey and not to Dispute. But neither do I mean that there should be any direct Proclamation, or Order of Council for their Banishment, that might possibly be of ill Consequence, and make the People (who are ever extreamly jealous of their Liberty) to suspect some Confederacy, and they would cry out immediately against the Papists, as Men who were introducing Slavery by a President. At least they would fall upon the Ministers for using an unlawful way to rid the Kingdom of those whom they might drive out of it lawfully.

Now Slavery is as great a Bugbear in *England* as *Popery*, and the People, who understand *Magna Charta* and the Bible much alike, yet will dye before they will lose either. The Method I would have used is, to Issue out Commissions for Seizing two parts of three of the Recusants Estates, with strict

ſtrict Orders for convicting all who are not already convicted. And let there be alſo publick Directions given to the Commiſſioners to forbear the Seizure of the Eſtates, of thoſe *Catholicks*, who ſhall leave the Kingdom within half a Year; But that no mercy ſhould be ſhewn to thoſe who ſtaid after that time, but that every penal Law ſhould be let looſe upon them. This will have a very good appearance amongſt the People, if it be really executed, who will begin preſently to leſſen their Suſpition of the Court, when they find the *Catholicks* perſecuted (as they think) in good earneſt. I am very ſenſible that this propoſal of mine cannot be effected without great inconvenience to many of our deareſt Friends (but private convenience muſt give place to Publick Utility, and every Pious Soul will be content to ſuffer, when they are made to underſtand that ſo great a deliverance will ſuddenly and certainly follow. Beſides I conſider the Catholick Gentry may eaſily content to Travel for a year or two (for it will be no more) they are not entangled in Offices and Employments, but may live as cheaply, and almoſt as conveniently abroad as at home. And we muſt take care to procure Diſpenſations for all the Trading *Catholicks* and thoſe of lower degree (who are not already furniſhed with them) that ſo they may take the Oaths and Conform, which they may do and no great notice will be taken of it. And by this Method no conſiderable miſchiefs will fall upon our Friends by this ſeeming ſeverity, and yet all manner of Suſpition in the People will be cured: The K. once more let right in their good opinion, and the perſecuting of the *Preſbyterians* Juſtified, as being only the conſequence of a reſolution in his Majeſty to regain the honor of the Government by an affectual and impartial Execution of the Laws. Then it may be a ſeaſon to think of a *Parliament*. Then 'twill be fit to diſſolve this, from whom no poſſible good can be expected, and to ſummon a new one. For by that time all the *Preſbyterians* will be under the Laſh of the Penal Laws, ſeverely executed, and under ſuſpition of horrid Conſpiracies, by the

Methods before propoſed, and conſequently will not dare to pretend to be Elected, or to interpoſe at Elections, and ſo we may once more have a *Parliament* like the laſt *Long One*. And if we can once again get ſuch a *Parliament*, then the *Preſbyterians* themſelves will look upon a General Act of Oblivion as a Grace, and conſequently thereby all our Friends may be ſet at Liberty. But theſe are little things. What ſhall we not be able to do in ſuch a juncture, with ſuch a *Parliament*? But yet I muſt confeſs to your *Reverence*, That tho the Phyſick I have preſcribed be ſharp, yet I am fearful it may not be ſtrong enough. I am inſpirious ſtill that whilſt they are ſure in *England* that a *Catholick* muſt Succeed, they will never be free from fearing us, and its poſſible, may in *Parliament*, take advantage of the Voluntary Banishment propoſed before, to make it a Banishment in good earneſt by a Law. I would therefore with all humility propoſe to your *Reverence* a thing which I have often thought of, and which I ſtill believe to be the only infallible means to Cure the People of their Fear and Hatred to *Catholicks*. 'Tis that his *R. H.* ſhould diſſemble a Reconciliation to the *Proteſtant Religion*. I perceive your *Reverence* as well as the *Fathers*, are ſurpriz'd at what I ſay, and yet I believe (though it might not be thought of, as I have often wondred at it) his *R. H.* Conduct in this whole buſineſs ſeems ſuch, as if he had all along reſolved, upon any preſſing neceſſity, to leave himſelf room for ſuch a Retreat. For though he is content that all the world ſhould believe and ſee that he is a *Catholick*, yet he has never directly told them ſo, nor Publickly reconciled himſelf to our Church. Nay I have heard that one of the Secretaries ſhould lay not long ſince at the Council Board, that he wondred how any man durſt ſay, that the *D.* of *Y.* was a *Papiſt*, ſince he had not, declar'd him'ſelf ſuch, and he did not believe that he was one (which was very much at this time of day.) So that it is not ſo diſhonourable, nor ſo ſhameful a Retreat as a man would think before he hath conſidered it. Therefore ſoon after his Return

out

out of *Scotland*, he may desire Conference between us and some of the *Bishops* in his presence to satisfy him of some points wherein he doubts. Let him also hear some private Disputes between some of the *Dissenters* and us. Then let him declare his little satisfaction from the *Fanatick* Divines, and seem convinced by the weighty Arguments of the *Bishops*, and so go to their Church with the *K.* One thing I could wish, that none of the most Learned, but only some of the weaker *Bishops* should be chosen for this Service, for it may be of use to us hereafter to Print the Conference, when his *R. H.* is to return to us again. Or possibly it may be the best way that he should without any noise go again to the *Ks.* Chappel in the same manner that he left it, and receive the Sacrament and take the Tests. The consequence of all which will be that he will be made Admiral and General, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and Lord High Constable of *England*, and have every great Trust put into his hands without Suspition. The *Church of England* will dote on him, and (against their reason) will pretend to believe his coversion real. And whoever dare mutter the contrary, will be called a *Rebel* and a *Republican*. They will find out handsom Excuses for him for this short absence from them, will be proud and exalted above all measure, that they have reduced him, when the ignorant *Fanaticks* (as they will call them) could not move him in the least. They will never be satisfied till they have put all power into his hands, and he may do what he will either in such a *Parliament* as I have mentioned, or out of it. I know it may be Objected, that this will appear to be very mean in him, and he will lose or lessen his Honour in the *Catholick* World. But I know his Zeal to be such, that he will subject himself to any Dishonour, as well as to any Danger so he may promote the Holy Cause. And we may by our care in a great measure hinder any such Reflections upon him abroad. From being envied or feard, the *Catholicks* will then only be pitied in *England*, and from thenceforth will not be

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look on as considerable enough to take up the least care of *Parliament*. And yet they need not to be much discouraged neither, for every Confessor may be directed to communicate the Secret according to discretion, & the measure of the parties understanding. Then will be the time for us to rid our selves of that most *Inconstant Prodigal Person*, who never durst shew his love to us further then to do us a mischief, by discovering his Inclination to us and going no further. Then will his *R. H.* come quietly to the Crown, get the Revenue Established, an Army raised on any pretence, and without opposition may settle true *Religion* and true *Monarchical Government* in *England*. Another thing I would have done is, That immediately upon his *R. H.* his return out of *Scotland*, he should himself desire a reconciliation with the *D.* of *M.* and procure him to be restored to his *Majesties* Favour, and all his Offices. This will look like a generous thing, and the *D.* of *M.* has not sence enough to see through it. This will make that *D.* for ever suspected by the People, and when that is done, his *R. H.* may handsomly press the *K.* to require of him, to Sign and Seal in Publick a solemn Renunciation of all pretences to the Crown. If he does submit to this, he will for ever lose all Esteem, as one of an Abject spirit. If he refuses, things may be easily so ordered, as that the Judges may call it *Treason*, so we shall either way be rid of the pretences of that *Counterfeit Prince*, who may other-ways give us great disturbance hereafter.

There is besides this, one thing which is well begun, but must be perfected, and that is the clearing the *Council* of some ill *affected Persons*. Several indeed have lately quitted it, but there are enough stil left to give disturbance to our Affairs. Now there is nothing would give a greater Authority to what his *R. H.* would have done then to have it the Result of a debate in Council. And therefore that Board must be so far refined, as to leave none there but such as we can entirely trust. In a word, Let his *R. H.* never rest till he gets the *Council*, the

Judges

Judges, the *Justices* of Peace, and the *Lieutenancy* of *England* all of a piece, and the *Corporations* thoroughly *Reformed*; and then he may do what he please without Opposition, for nothing that has the Face of Authority can oppose. He needs not much concern himself for *London*, he has done the business of that City already. They are furnished with such a *Recorder*, such a *Lieutenancy*, such a *Court* of *Aldermen*, that it is impossible they should be mended. The *Fathers* having thus severally delivered their Sentiments, *Father Le Chese* concluded the Conference in this manner.

Le Chese, The debate of these weighty matters has given me abundant satisfaction, and a great light into the Affairs of *England*. I am clearly of opinion that to secure that Kingdom, every one of your Counsels must in some degree be pursued. *Parliaments* must be *kept off*, the *Lawes* must be put in *Execution* against the *Dissenters*, and they must be either *driven into* or *charged* with some *Treasonable Conspiracy*. Nay the *Catholicks* must be content to quit *England* for some time; and I will make it my care that their reception in *France* shall be such, as that their Banishment shall be very easie to them. But the last thing that *Father Conters* mentioned, may be attended with such important consequences, that I will not venture to give my Opinion, till I have communicated it to our *General*, which I will do with all speed, that he may represent it to his *Holiness*, who is almost as Infallible in Policy, as in matters of Faith. I am convinced with the *Fathers* that it is the only way to cure finally the Jealousies of the Heretick, and to secure the Succession, but I am apprehensive we shall pay too dear for it. For if his *E. H.* shews such an instance of Instability, it will very much lessen the opinion which the world has of his constancy and firmness of spirit. It will strangely discourage the Ignorant Catholicks; It will put a stop to our many daily Converts, It will amaze all the Hectors, and Beggerly Sword-men, who are now universally ours, but then will not know which way to take, and will

will be enclined againſt us. Nay, which I moſt apprehend is that when at laſt a new *Parliament* ſhall meet, if they ſhould propoſe any ſevere and pernicious Laws againſt Catholicks, the *D.* muſt not oppoſe them, leaſt we loſe the fruit of all this Venture, and he diſcover to the World the Inſincerity of his Change. And 'tis certain, that then all thoſe Men who are indeed of no Religion but what they think likely to prevail, will turn as violently againſt us, as now they appear for our Intereſt. It ſhall therefore be my buſineſs to let our General know the reſult of this Conſultation, And I hope you will take care to communicate all other paſſages, beſides this laſt, to the *Fathers* at St. *Omers*, and that Inſtructions may be ſent into *England* to prepare *Catholicks* for the things which are to follow.

An Account of a Second Conference, ſent in a Letter from PARIS.

My Lord,

YOur Lordſhip *having been pleaſed to receive kindly the account which I gave you of the laſt Conference, and Commanded me to uſe my Endeavors to continue the ſame Intelligence, I have thought it my Duty to watch for the next Opportunity, and have been ſo happy as to ſucceed in my Deſign. Yeſterday the* Fathers *made a ſecond Viſit to his* Reverence, *and your* Lordſhip *has an account of their Debate in what follows. And though it be not told ſo well as it ſhould be, yet becauſe it is told early, it may obtain pardon for,*

My Lord,

Paris, *May* 28.

Your Lordſhips moſt obliged humble Servant.

The

AS soon as the first Civilities were passed between them, *Father LeCheſe* commanded the Room to be cleared of all other Company, and then desiring the *Fathers* to retire with him into his Closet, near the enterance of which I could conceal my self, he told them, That as he doubted not but he should receive from them a good account of those things which they had undertaken at their last Meeting, so he thought himself obliged to let them know in what manner he had acquainted himself on his part, which he could not better do than by shewing them the Letter which he had lately received from their *General*. The Letter as near as I can remember was to this Effect.

I have communicated to his Holineſs yours of the 5*th* of *February* last, who was wonderfully delighted to see your *Reverence* engage your self, with such Christian fortitude, in a design so truly Catholick, and did much approve your choice of those Fathers with whom you thought fit to communicate, as knowing them to be all persons whose Judgments are no less eminent then their Zeal and firmness to the Catholick cause is meritorious. His Holineſs immediately upon the sight of it, commanded me to call together those three persons, in whom your Reverence knows he do's above all others most justly confide. And after long deliberation had upon that subject & weighing the conveniences & dangers of either side, which you had with so great Judgment represented in your Letter, both he & they are absolutely of opinion, that the Dissimule by no means dissemble a Change in Religion, for that it will inevitably bring infinite Mischiefs on the Catholick & their Cause. This I am commanded to aquaint you with. I have further in command from his Holineſs to beseech you in his name to continue your Paternal care for that unhappy afflicted Nation, & to give his thanks to the rest of the Fathers whose diligence in this affair has given them the highest place in his Holinesses

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good opinion. He ſends you his *Apoſtolical Benediction*. To which I will add my prayers for ſucceſs in your undertakings, and that the Mother of God may have your Reverence in her keeping, and protect you.

Your Reverences moſt affectionate

Brother in Chriſt, Johannes

Paulus Daliva

As ſoon as Father *Warren* had made an end of reading the Letter, Father *Conyers* offered to ſpeak, but Father *Le Cheſe* ſaid, he thought himſelf obliged to give him an account how he had behaved himſelf in thoſe other things wherewith they had charged him, at their laſt meeting. You all thought it neceſſary ſaid he that my Maſter ſhould be engaged to uſe his power and his purſe (if he could be ſo far prevailed upon) to prevent the meeting of an *Engliſh* Parliament, and you ſee by the ſucceſs that I have not been negligent. No Parliament hath ſat nor do we yet here of a ſeſſion. But the growing neceſſities of that Court can be no otherwiſe ſupplied, but by Aids from them or from hence. My Maſter is not unwilling to part with his Mony, could he have an Equivalent, & *Tangier* has been propoſed as a thing which the K. of *England* has never made any great advantage of, & is more chargeable to him than *Dunkirk* was, which yet he parted with, meerly in a compliance to my Maſters deſigns, when his Revenue was larger, and his Debts were not ſo numerous and vaſt as at preſent. This I look upon as a thing of conſequence, and ſuch as well deſerves your conſideration. Having ſaid this and made them all ſit down, Father *Conyers* ſpoke in this ſort.

Conyers, had I foreſeen at our laſt, attendance upon your Reverence, what has ſince happen'd in *England*, I had not made thoſe propoſals which I then did. Things have ſucceeded there above our hopes; and diverſe fortunate accidents, together with the

the variable humor of that People, have put us into almost as promising a condition as we were in before the first detection. When the *D.* returned out of *Scotland* the whole *English Clergie* fell down before him; Nor would they stay for any dissembled change of his *Religion*, to give them some countenance, for their Joy & their Flattery. In an Instant the whole scene was changed, and every thing began to smile upon the *Catholicks*, and nothing was cry'd out against but the *Fanatical Republican* spirit. That device of ours to reform the Commissions had such an admirable effect, that we readily turn'd upon our enemies the nimble storm, which threatned us from the petitions. For the *Justices*, by the assistance of the *Clergy* (tho they had been put in mind, that their own Doctrine had allowed the Subjects those innocent Arms of *Prayers & Tears*) prevailed with more County's to declare their Abhorrence of Petitions, then were found Petitioning. Nay they went so far, that in almost every one of those abhorring addresses, in the very same period, they give his *Majesty* thanks for recalling his Brother, and taking care of the *Protestant Religion*. The old Justices were become so fearful of following those who had been so lately disgraced, & the New ones were so transported with their unexpected advancement, that none of them would stick at any thing how absurd soever, as if the *D.* presence at Court could only support the *Protestant Religion*, & that it was only a Complement to the K. when they call him, *The defender of the Faith*. 'Tis true there were but few that joyned in those Addresses, and those also were but inconsiderable persons, but yet coming from the Benches, and being Presented and received with so much Solemnity, and set out with such care in the publick News, they strook'd the People as effectually & pleased the K as well as we could desire. So that now *Catholicks* would have little to fear even from a Parliament, had they one of the same temper, with that which *Danby* did so unfortunately get dissolved. But that splenetful Minister could not bear to be all us'd by them whom he had fed so long; & Rage made him fatally Joyn with the most Christian Kings

Minister in procuring the dissolution of that only Parliament that ever was (or I fear) ever will be useful to us, in our design of changing the Religion and the Government of *England*.

Le Chese, Here Father *Le Chese* interposed & said, it was a truth that unless *Monsieur Bastion* had Joyn'd in the Council. They all besides had been too weak to have prevailed upon the King to part with those on whom he had so sure a tie. But the Dissolving that *Parliament*, said he, in my opinion was a great service to the *Catholick* Interest, for it was our principal Business, to bring the K. to a necessity of being firm to us, which was impossible, whilest that Parliament wou'd perpetually feed him with money, & at the same time exclaim against *France*. But having deprived him of that certain *Fund*, we are now sure of him, for he will still want, & he can now only be supplied from *France*, or the *Catholicks* elsewhere, & he will always depend upon, & be guided by those that supply him with money. Having said thus, he desired the Father to proceed, who went on thus.

Confessor, We have entirely gained our design of possessing the Clergy with an opinion that the present Parliament is made up of *Presbyterians & Commonwealths-men*, tho the truth is, upon perusal of the list, we cannot find above forty Dissenters from their Church, & much the Greatest part of the House of Commons consists of such as were either themselves actually in the late Ks. service, or are defended from such as were, and they are fully perswaded that if ever the K. harkens to Parliamentary advice, their whole Hierachy will be in danger. Their most famous Champions against us, & who have had a reputation of being very moderate in the differences amongst themselves, begin now to appear with great Harmony against the *Fanaticks*, whilst the generality are warmed to that degree, that all their *Sermons* are turned to *Invectives* against that sort of men, & many of them exceed all bonds of Discretion; Nay, one has rashly published the Truth in print in a late famous *Dialogue*, that Parliaments can be born no longer, & that the K. is necessitated to set up for absolute power & declares openly that himself

self and his Brethren are for it. And that all who are of another mind are for a Commonwealth, and we have done what in us lies to make the K. believe the same thing. This good success has made another part of my former Advise no less unnecessary. That the *Catholicks* should for some time leave the kingdom. The Church (as the Clergy calls themselves) are now so far from desiring us to be gon, that they would rather Conjure our stay, & suck not to say publikly that they look upon us as better friends than the *Fanaticks*, & a good help against them. Besides, we are wholly eased in this particular by the good disposition of the present *Magistrates* towards us, for they bend all their force against the opposite party, and we are used as gently and civilly as if we were their best friends: the Courts of Justice forbear not to declare publickly, that the utmost Rigour of the Law shall be let loose upon the disaffected (which is the word now for all those who are against Absolute Goverment, or differ from the Establisht Church, in their Ceremony Quarrel) whilest in the mean time, they are so tender of the Liberty of a Catholick, who comes before them, so fearful of breaking their Oaths in detaining us too long in custody, so easie and forward to Bail us, that it seems, as if in the case of a Catholick it were not a thing of discretion but necessity to Bail men accused of Treason. There is one case wherein they confess they cannot do it. But they don't it with so much civility, & express so freely their hearty sorrow, that their power was not as large as their will, that we cannot but take it very kindly from them & I am informed that a favorite advocate not long since said publickly at the Bar, that they should soon make an end of this troublesome *Popish Plot*. There is another way whereby they express their kindness for us, in prosecuting severely, all those hot headed People, who suffer themselves to be provoked by the management of things, to speak with any disrespect or suspition of the Government, & they order the matter so, that in giving their judgment, they take care to represent to the world such idle talk not as the effect of Wine or Passion, or as spoken by chance,

chance, but as the result of the consultation of some disaffect persons, who had the Government of the Faction, and that all which these indiscreet men suffer to escape from them, was only what they had learnt from the more malicious and abler Heads of the discontented, that is, Anti-catholick party.

But this is not all, the *King* is grown sickly and the *Duke* seems near the possession of the Crown, and therefore 'tis most plain he must not now disown, but rather publickly avow his Religion; 'tis not less plain that all Catholicks should not only forbear to depart the Kingdom, but should be near him, and ready to suppress any Insurrection that may happen on the Kings Death, and to execute those other things which will be absolutely necessary at that time: So that I cannot but admire his Holyness great Wisdom and foresight, and do most humbly and joyfully submit to his determination. Here Father *Conyers* ending, his Reverence said.

LeChese, I am well satisfied by the success, that all other things which we agreed upon at our last conference, have been executed with care; But the many great alterations which you have hinted to me, required that we should enter into a new consultation how we are to behave our selves for the time to come.

Warren. Upon the invitation Father *warren* took up the discourse in this manner. I am still of the same opinion that I was before, that all the good we have received, & all the good we can hope for, depend entirely upon the not meeting of the parliament, & it is my positive opinion that the *Catholicks* ought not upon any pretence, or any hopes whatsoever, to suffer themselves to be cozen'd into a consent that any Parliament should meet during this Reign: for it will then be impossible to keep him in Ignorance, or continue his good opinion of our interest & power, and the low esteem he now has of our enemies. Therefore we must no longer defer the supplying his pressing occasion for mony, and we can do it no other way, then by the help of the most Christian King. Your Reverence, we are all assured has done your utmost, and never will spare any pains in

in the cause of the Church, but still the matter is difficult, since some things must be found out (you say) which is proportionable in value to the money lent. I dispute not but 'tis reasonable enough demanded, but I fear if it is not feasible. For the People have for some time been Jealous of a design to part with *Tangier*, and the last Parliament confirmed them in that Suspition, by Voting a Bill to be brought in for annexing it to the Crown of *England*, and the truth is, we have reason to fear desperate effects from the fury of the People, should they discover that it is Sold.

Le chese, You have Reason, replied Father *Le chese*, for what you say, but things are order'd already that the king of *Great Britain* may suffer *Tangier* to fall into my Masters hands without the least suspition. You know the *Moors* have besieged it long, and they have been assisted with Amunition, Engineers, and some Souldiers from *France*, which it will be easie to encrease to what Quantity and Numbers we please. And your K. may upon specious pretences delay the sending of Succor so long, whilst we press it there so vigorously, that it must necessarily be surrendred before any relief can come. Thus all the world will esteem it lost by misfortune, and not by agreement the Crown of *England* having thereby lost all Right to it, my Master will be thought to deserve the Thanks of Christendom, and act agreeable to his Title of *Most Christian*, in regaining so important a place out of the hands of Infidels, who would only have made it a Den of *Pyrates*. So will my Master have his desire, your Master will not suffer in his Honour or opinion with the people, and yet will obtain all that he aimes at, Money. I think this design may be improved further, if the pretended Succors be led by some of those Lords and Gentlemen, who are principally in Favour with the *Duke*; for he will run no hazard of losing any of them, and yet the Nation will hereby made to see, that the Catholicks and his Favorites, are the only men who offer to expose themselves on all occasions for the Public.

Sir Tho. Preston. *Sir Thomas Preston* then said, that this expedient

pedient had a good Aſpect, & he believed would take with the K. when it came well recommended to him, ſo that their wanted nothing but a good color to have perſwaded him to part with that chargeable place long ſince, & the thing was once ſo far reſolved on, that it was propoſed in Council, by an *Engliſh Earl*, and ſeconded there, that it was fit to be ſold, and the ſale would raiſe a very conſiderable ſum. But that Board was not then all of a piece, as it is now and yet as well reformed as it is, and tho none ſit there who will not patiently ſubmit to any thing which is for the intereſt of the *Duke*, and ſuited to the Kings inclination, yet I ſhould not think it wiſdom to adventure to make the Council acquainted with any purpoſe of parting with that uſefull and conſiderable Town. As ſoon as he had made an end of ſpeaking, *Sir John warner* began thus.

Sir John warner. I ſuppoſe the only meaning we have in furniſhing the K. with monys, that we may once again provide him with an army, for without it, his old fears will ſoon return upon him, & without it, his *Heretical* Subjects can never be reduced. But without a plauſible pretence (tho we were never ſo rich, no Army can be raiſed in *England*. I remember well what endeavours were uſed in 1673. By men of much greater Credit with the People then any who are now at Court, & yet they could not get together 6000 men, & half of them ran away too, within a Fortnight after their Rendezvous at *Black Heath*, whereas in half the time, on pretence of a War with *France* in the year 1677. near 40000 Men were raiſed, by ſome who had little Intereſt or Credit in the Country, and if at all known there, 'twas only by their Names not their Eſtates. Now I confeſs it is my opinion, that without the countenance of a Parliament, nothing but the ſame pretence, can raiſe an Army in *England*, & that too will not do it, unleſs by ſome other artifices we can make the People believe, that the Court means more ſincerely then the laſt time. I do therefore humbly propoſe that his moſt Clemſt in *Majeſty* would permit our K. to proceed in his *Negotiating* an *Alliance* with *Holland*, *Spaine*, and the *Prince*

of

of the Empire and to suffer him to enter into a League with them (as he did once already for the common security of *Europe*. The most Christian King can suspect no danger to himself from it. Since he is sufficiently assured that the Court of *England* has no less respect for him, and depend upon him as much as ever and they will as certainly neglect to serve the ends of such a League, and it will be as easily dissolved as the Triple Allyance was, as soon as our ends were attained by it. Nor will it be as difficult I hope to prevail with the most Christian King to suffer us to Declare our selves his enemyes once again, since he has had experience that we can do it without diminishing our Friendship for him in the least. The necessary consequences of this will be, that an Army must be Raised and sent over and put into several Garrizons in *Holland* or *Flanders* and may be there disciplined and made ready to execute all our designs in *England* as soon as they are ripe. One further use of such a League may be to make it a But for a Parliament, and if any thing, that will make them give freely for the support of it, as they did before to support the *Triple League*. And if they do so, care shall be taken it shall be employ'd as much to their end as what was then giv'n. And if they refuse or deny to give mony, the Court will have an Admirable occasion of breaking them and deserting the use of Parliaments, as being grown so openly averse to all the Interests of the Nation. I hope the most Christian King will never believe that he can receive prejudice from an *English Army* in *Flanders*, whilst all its Officers are put in by his *Royall Highness* who can never desert his interest. He cannot trust the Protestant party whose Destruction he has so openly endevoured, and he knows the Catholicks are too weak and too few to serve him unless in conjunction with *France*. Besides, your Reverence, who well knows how devoted all the society is to the service of the most Christian King, may safely assure him that the *Duke* cannot but be entirely his, whilst any Father of the Society has the direction of his Conscience. But

besides what I have said as to this particular, I am to let you know that we have Resolved to communicate to your *Reverence* several things which have been done, & which we conceive very necessary to be done at home, if they shall have your Approbation, our Great business is, to get the *Duke* once securely settled on the Throne, for after that, *Catholicks* have no more to fear. This the factious Hereticks in *England* know, and therefore will not fail to lay hold on every pretence, which may disturb him and us, how little soever it be. Now we are sure he cannot be excluded by Law, whilst we can keep off Parliaments; Nor can we fear the Birth of a nearer Heir whilst the Queen lives. But about the time of the Queens Marriage there were some old Storys whispered about the Legitimation of the *Duke* of *Monmouth*, which are indeed at present laid asleep, but that *Duke* having joyned himself with the Faction, makes us fear, least he designs to revive something of that matter, for otherwise nothing could be more senseless. Than for him to incurr the Kings Displeasure, as he does out of meer Caprice, So that we resolving to encounter him in his Policy, have again fixed that Report, which will be a handsome occasion for the *Duke* of *York* to press the *King*, that the thing may be examined at Council, and there we can turn it to our Advantage as much as we please, by a Discreet Interrogating the persons convented before them. Nor can the King after that, deny the *Duke* to publish in print the *Declaration* which he formerly made, and perhaps we may get it inlarged, with fuller and more significant words. We have also prepared some *Medalls*, representing the *D.* of *Yor.* as *Prince* of *Wales*, which we will get dispersed as handsomly as we can, and that will give a Jealousie of some *Design*. And we should raise that suspicion to a high Degree, if we could but get some of the Malecontented Lords, and others accused, or but suspected of confederating, to set up his pretences, which we are perswaded will not be difficult: This will be requisite, least otherwise the K. would be offend-

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ed at making a Scrutiny into such an affair upon no grounds.

We have also ordered it so, that several Ridiculous circumstances are joyned with this story of his Marriage, and the examination of the Council may be only as to those circumstances, the falsity and Foolishness of which will easily appear, and that may be made use of to expose the whole thing.

Le Chese. Here Father *Le Chese* asking pardon for interrupting him, said, I fear that this Project may turn to your disadvantage, for 'tis danger, *Quieta movere*, & 'tis possible you may awaken a Jealousie amongst the People, which you will never be able to satisfy, it being a very hard thing to convince men that a thing is false, which they wish were true. Besides, you know the Catholicks have lately been accused of a design against the Kings Life, which tho he do's not now believe, yet who knows what suspition it may breed in him, that the *D.* is preparing to get immediatly into the Throne, when he sees him so very nice at such time as this, in removing every thing which may obstruct his coming to it, or be dangerous to him when he arrives. Nor do I see what great use the *D.* can make of such a *Declaration*, for men will be apt to say, That the thing may be true notwithstanding. And tho it would be highly dishonourable in the King to Declare such a thing, if it were not true, yet it is no more then his *Royal Highness* himself has done, He having denyed his Marriage with *Mrs. Hide*, at his first coming into *England* with the most solemn Asseveration, not sparing to reproch and scandalize her till she proved it.

Sir John Warner. What you object, hath great weight replyed *Sir John Warner.* But first you must consider, that to have the business baffled upon a solemn Hearing before the Counsel, and denyed by a publick *Declaration*, cannot but damp it much, and put us in a better condition then we are in at present. For we fear that if it be not now it may come hereafter to be [illegible] Whe[illegible] not a Lord [illegible]

the diſcovery of the Truth, more than the *Duke of York* deſires he ſhould, and we do hope to make the ſtory ſo Ridiculous, that it will never after be taken up by a Parliament, Nor do we fear that the King more ſhould grow ſuſpicious of the *D.* or *Catholicks*. He was never more ſupinely ſecure than he is at preſent; And we have ſo ordered the matter, that he has no time to *think* himſelf. The whole day being taken up in ſome diverſion or other, nor can any enemy come near him, to whiſper Jealouſies into his Ear. 'Tis for that reaſon principally, that he is perſwaded to ſtay at *Windſor*, becauſe no man can come thither, who is not a confident, but his *Royal Highneſs* has immediate Notice, and can take care to prevent any opportunity of private Acceſs. And tho' we have no reaſon to miſtruſt the Council, yet we have repreſented to his *Royall Highneſs* how neceſſary it is, that he ſhould contrive ſome way to be preſent at, tho he do not aſſiſt in Debates there, leaſt otherwiſe, one time or other, ſome of the Lords may break looſe, and tell too plain Truths; whereas being awed by his preſence, they will not dare to venture his diſpleaſure by ſpeaking any thing againſt his Intereſt. We have alſo told him the abſolute neceſſity of getting all the Garrizons and Commands into ſure hands immediatly, for Sickneſs as well as Age growing upon the King, 'tis time for the Succeſſor to look about him. We are alſo very buſie in contriving ſome way to divide the faction amongſt themſelves, and do not deſpair of effecting it, ſince we know how all an underſtanding there is, between two eminent Lords of greateſt Intereſt with the People. We have been all this year in pain, by reaſon of the *Lord Major*, and we have reaſon to rejoyce that things have not gone worſe with us then they have. It muſt therefore be our buſineſs to provide a good man to ſucceed him, for ſhould the King be taken off, 'twould be of vaſte Importance to have the *Lord Major* ours. But 'tis ſo unfortunate that the next man in order, is the worſt enemy we have in all the City; and therefore ſeveral deſigns have been contrived for the put-

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ting him by. But our bold and faithful friend the *Recorder*, who will deserve the new Preferment we have got for him, hath desired to have the Honour of that business to himself. And has prepared to prosecute him for neglecting to observe something enjoyned by some of the late penal laws, whereby he assures us, he will be rendred uncapable of that Office. But if he should fail, and that he will be *Major*, we must resolve, that he shall run the same Fate with the *Duke* of *Monmouth*, and the Lord *Shaftesbury* upon the *King's* death.

We must not forget to acquaint your Reverence with an unfortunate Accident, which might have ruined us, but I hope the Storm is blown over in a great measure. The Correspondence between the Most Christian King and the Irish Catholicks have been at large discovered, and that by so many Witnesses of unquestionable Reputation and Credit, and the thing told with all the Circumstances, so that it admits of no denial, but what we could not Resist, we have Diverted, and have procured, that they should be sent back into *Ireland*, where we know our Friends to be strong enough to break through any thing, and we are satisfied we might trust the management of it to our wise and zealous Friend the Lord Ch. The business had been examined in *England* had we been able to have ordered matters so that the Examination should have ended with some reflection on the Witnesses, and could have been sure to prevent its having been made publick. There was another thing that might have cost us dear, and that was an attempt made upon one *Arnold*: a restless hot headed implacable Enemy of ours, one who has as much malice against us, and more cunning than Sir W. W. Had he been kill'd outright it had been happy enough, for we had ordered it so, that it should have looked like a private Revenge, taken upon him by a Gentleman that had a Controversie with him. But he has escaped with Life, and our Friends were so unfortunately transported in the act, that they told him the occasion that provoked them to do what they

expect, and ſo took leave of them. Thus the Conference broke off, but I ſhall not fail to watch their next coming, and to give your Lordſhip a quick account of their reſolutions. In the mean time, be pleaſed to interpret favourably the Diligence and Fidelity of.

My Lord, Your Lordſhips moſt

humble, and moſt obedient Servant.

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